

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13  
OMB-01 TRSE-00 AGRE-00 EB-08 COME-00 AID-05 FRB-03  
A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 STR-07 HA-05  
ACDA-12 /144 W

-----080871 111941Z /42

R 111228Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 268

DIA WASHDC

CIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

USCINCEUR VAINGEN GE

USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, IR

SUBJ: SHARIF-EMAMI GOVERNMENT PRESENTS PROGRAM TO MAJLES

REF: TEHRAN 8616

SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER PRESENTED HIS GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM TO PARLIAMENT SEPT 10, ALONG WITH MANDATORY ENABLING LEGISLATION FOR MARTIAL LAW; DEBATE WILL BEGIN SEPT 12. MAIN ELEMENTS OF PROGRAM WERE RESTORATION OF SECURITY, PREPARATIONS FOR TOTALLY FREE ELECTIONS, TAX REFORM TO BENEFIT LOW INCOME GROUPS, VIGOROUS PROSECUTION OF CORRUPT AND INCOMPETENT, FREEDOM OF PRESS, INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY, AND EMPHASIS ON AGRICULTURE. PRIME MINISTER COMMITTED GOI TO CONTINUED POLITICAL LIBERALIZATION AS ORDER IS RESTORED. SPECIFIC LEGISLATION WILL BE PRESENTED TO MAJLES AFTER VOTE OF CONFIDENCE TAKEN LATER IN WEEK. EMBASSY BELIEVES PROGRAM IS SOLID BUT EVERYONE WILL BE WATCHING IMPLEMENTATION AS SIGN OF ACTUAL GOI COMMITMENT TO PRINCIPLES LAID DOWN BY SHARIF-EMAMI. END SUMMARY.

1. PRIME MINISTER SHARIF-EMAMI PRESENTED HIS GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM TO MAJLES SEPT 10, AND REPEATED PRESENTATION TO SENATE SEPT 11. TEXT OF PM'S SPEECH BEING POUCHED DEPARTMENT. HE SAID TIME HAS COME FOR IRANIAN PEOPLE TO MAKE "UNTIED EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE OVERALL SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY." PAYING BRIEF TRIBUTE TO VICTIMS OF RECENT UNREST, HE CALLED FOR A "RELENTLESS STRUGGLE" AGAINST CORRUPTION AND ACTIVITIES UNDERMINING COUNTRY'S INDEPENDENCE. GOI WILL PRESENT PRESS FREEDOM AND FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY BILLS TO PARLIAMENT AS SOON AS IT HAS BEEN CONFIRMED IN OFFICE, AND PRIMIN PLEDGED NON-INTERFERENCE IN JUDICIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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AFFAIRS. (WE UNDERSTAND GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO GET A PROMINENT RETIRED SUPREME COURT JUSTICE TO RETURN TO ACTIVE DUTY TO MANAGE JUDICIAL REFORMS FROM THE JUDICIARY SIDE.)

2. ATTACK ON CORRUPTION AND AID TO AGRICULTURE WERE MAJOR THEMES. PRIMIN SAID CORRUPTION MUST BE ROOTED OUT TO RESTORE POPULAR CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT. (COMMENT: EIGHT OR NINE INDIVIDUALS HAVE ALREADY BEEN ARRESTED, INCLUDING SEVERAL WEALTHY BUSINESSMEN AND FORMER HEALTH MINISTER DR. SHEIKHOESLAMZADEH AND HIS TWO EX-DEPUTY-SECRETARIES, ARAM AND NAGHABAT, SEE SEPTTEL. NEWSPAPER RASTAKHIZ SAYS ARRESTS OF MORE HIGH OFFICIALS ARE IN THE OFFING. END COMMENT) GOAL OF MAXIMIZING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IF NOT SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN AGRICULTURE WAS PROCLAIMED, SOME OFFICIAL SUBSIDIES ON CROPS RAISED, AND TAX EXEMPTION FOR INCOMES EARNED FROM AGRICULTURE AND CATTLE RAISING WERE ANNOUNCED. SHARIF-EMAMI ALSO ANNOUNCED EXPANSION OF SERVICES TO RURAL AREAS.

3. PRIMIN SAID LAW AND ORDER WILL BE MAINTAINED, FREE ELECTIONS WILL BE ORGANIZED, AND RED TAPE WILL BE SLASHED. IN INTERVIEW WITH RADIO REPORTER AFTER PRESENTATIONS,

PRIME MINISTER SAID IMPOSITION OF MARTIAL LAW WOULD NOT  
RPT NOT CHANGE GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE TO PROCEED WITH REGARD  
TO SOCIAL LIBERTIES. WHEN ASKED ABOUT MARTIAL LAW IN  
TEHRAN, SHARIF-EMAMI REPLIED "I HOPE THAT PEOPLE'S  
BEHAVIOR, ESPECIALLY THE BEHAVIOR OF THOSE WHO BROUGHT  
ABOUT THIS SITUATION, WILL CHANGE, SO THAT WE MIGHT BE  
ABLE TO LIFT THE MARTIAL LAW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE."

4. ON ECONOMIC SIDE, PRIMIN PROMISED REVIEW OF COSTLY  
PUBLIC PROJECTS, LIMITATION OF PUBLIC SECTOR INVESTMENT  
TO INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES AND EMPHASIS ON SMALL-SCALE  
INDUSTRIES IN RURAL AREAS. HE PROMISED REVIEW OF INTERNAL

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AND EXTERNAL TRADE POLICIES AND SAID A NEW POLICY FOR  
COMMERCIAL GUILDS (SHOPKEEPERS UNIONS) WOULD BE DEVELOPED  
TO DISCOURAGE MONOPOLIES. TAXES WILL BE REDUCED FOR THE  
LOWEST INCOME GROUPS. GREATER ATTENTION WILL BE PAID TO  
PROBLEMS OF YOUTH. EXTENSION OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM  
BASED ON "NATIONAL AND SOCIAL INTERESTS AND COOPERATION"  
TO MAXIMIZE INDIVIDUAL POSSIBILITIES FOR FUTURE DEVELOP-  
MENT WILL BE UNDERTAKEN.

5. REGARDING POWER AND WATER, PRIMIN STATED LONG-TERM  
AND SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS WOULD BE REVIEWED AND TAILORED TO  
PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. (COMMENT: EMBASSY, AFTER CONTACT  
WITH GOI NUCLEAR OFFICIALS, BELIEVES SILENCE ON SPECIFIC  
SUBJECT OF NUCLEAR POWER IS POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT,  
SUGGESTING AS A MINIMUM A "LOW PROFILE" FOR SUCH "HIGH  
TECHNOLOGY" ACTIVITIES).

6. FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE WERE COVERED BRIEFLY NEAR  
THE END OF SPEECH, REFLECTING SHARIF-EMAMI'S FOCUS ON DOMESTIC  
AFFAIRS. HE SAID NATIONAL DEFENSE WILL BE KEPT STRONG  
TO INSURE IRAN'S INDEPENDENCE, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SOCIAL  
WELFARE POLICIES. HE REAFFIRMED IRAN'S "INDEPENDENT  
NATIONAL FOREIGN POLICY", INCLUDING RESPECT FOR OTHERS'  
RIGHT OF INDEPENDENCE, NON-INTERFERENCE IN OTHERS' INTERNAL  
AFFAIRS, PROMOTION OF PEACE BASED ON THE U.N. CHARTER.

7. IN POST-SPEECH STATEMENT, MINISTER OF STATE FOR  
EXECUTIVE AFFAIRS AZMOUN CONFIRMED THAT MARTIAL LAW WAS  
"AN INTERIM SOLUTION" WHICH GOI HAD TAKEN WITH "UTMOST REGRET."  
HE CONCEDED THAT FOR A LIMITED PERIOD, ACTIVITIES OF  
POLITICAL GROUPS WOULD HAVE TO BE SUSPENDED SO THAT  
FAVORABLE CIRCUMSTANCES FOR THE REVIVAL OF THOSE GROUPS  
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MAY BE ESTABLISHED. GOI SPOKESMAN ALSO SAID GOVERNMENT  
HAS DECIDED TO COMPENSATE VICTIMS FOR DAMAGES SUFFERED  
DURING RECENT DEMONSTRATIONS (ASSESSMENTS TO BE WORKED

OUT WITH LOCAL GOVERNING AUTHORITIES), AND THAT MINISTRY OF INFORMATION WOULD REVIEW BANNED PUBLICATIONS WITH AN EYE TO RESCINDING THE BANNINGS.

8. PARLIAMENTARY SESSION WAS HELD IN PEACE, THOUGH TANKS AND TROOPS RINGED BUILDING IN CASE OF TROUBLE. EIGHT OPPOSITION DEPUTIES WALKED OUT (REFTEL), AND PERSIAN PRESS CARRIED STATEMENT BY PAN IRANIST LEADER PEZESHKPOUR THAT HE COULD NOT ACCEPT PRIME MINISTER, WHO "HAS BLOOD ON HIS HANDS." GENERAL REACTION OF DEPUTIES TO GOI'S NEW PROGRAM WAS POSITIVE, BUT DEBATE IS EXPECTED TO BELIVELY WHEN IT BEGINS SEPT. 12.

9. EMBASSY'S INITIAL REACTION TO PROGRAM IS THAT IT IS GOOD GENERAL FORMULATION WHICH WILL COMMAND WIDESPREAD SUPPORT. CRITICAL QUESTION, HOWEVER, IS HOW FAST GOI CAN MOVE TO IMPLEMENT PRIME MINISTER'S PROGRAM AND CONVINCE FENCE-SITTERS AND OPPOSITIONISTS THAT GOI IS SERIOUS ABOUT POLITICAL FREEDOM AND SOCIAL JUSTICE. EVIDENCE IS ALREADY SEEN OF CURRENT BUDGET WITH REALLOCATIONS, I.E., FROM MILITARY TO AGRICULTURE; AS WELL AS CURRENT ACCOUNT SAVINGS EFFORTS. ROUNDUP OF INDIVIDUALS ON CORRUPTION CHARGES WHICH HAS ALREADY STARTED IS HAVING POSITIVE IMPACT OUT OF PROPORTION TO LIMITED RESULTS SO FAR. OUR INITIAL CONTACT WITH OPPOSITIONISTS SINCE PROGRAM ANNOUNCED SUGGESTS SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF CONFUSION OVER PROGRAM, ANGER AT GOI FOR ARRESTING SOME OPPOSITIONIST FIGURES, AND UNCERTAINTY WHETHER TO LIE LOW OR TO CONTINUE CONFRONTATION. FOR OPPOSITION, AS FOR GOI, NEXT FEW DAYS AND WEEKS ARE GOING TO BE REAL TIME OF SOUL-SEARCHING. IF GOI CAN MOVE RAPIDLY ON ITS PROGRAM, THIS MAY OFFSET TO SOME DEGREE IMPOSITION OF MARTIAL LAW AND MAKE POINT THAT GOI DOES WANT TO OPEN POLITICAL  
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ATMOSPHERE BUT WILL NOT TOLERATE VIOLENCE.  
SULLIVAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Type:** TE  
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